IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 58-62 without prejudice as indicated in the following list of pending claims.

Pending Claims

1-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula which has a longitudinal axis, an open distal end with an inner transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, a proximal end and an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) a first tissue cutting element which is disposed on the open distal end of the cannula and which lies in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed at least in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end having a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cannula that is greater than the inner transverse dimension of the open distal end of the elongate cannula; and

d) a second tissue cutting element which has an electrosurgical cutting surface, which is disposed on the distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said cannula.

29. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

30. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 29 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

33. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the electrosurgical cutting surface of the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, including a driving unit coupled to the stylet for axially translating the stylet between the withdrawn and extended positions.

36. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 35, wherein the driving unit has a translation mechanism, comprising

a carrier connected to a proximal portion of the stylet and movably mounted on the driving unit between a first position in which the stylet is in the withdrawn position and a second position in which the stylet is in the extended position; and

a carrier drive, coupled to the carrier, for moving the carrier between the first and second positions.

37. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 36, including

a. a motor which has a drive shaft coupled to a drive screw of the carrier drive for rotation therewith; and

b. a screw-driven mechanism coupled between the drive screw and the carrier, whereby rotation of the drive screw in a first direction moves the carrier from the first position to the second position.

38. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 28, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 38, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

41. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 38, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.

42. (Previously Presented) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula which has a longitudinal axis, an open distal end, a proximal end and an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) a first cutting element which has a tissue cutting surface that lies in a plane transverse to the longitudinal axis of the elongate cannula and which has a transverse dimension lying in the plane;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end configured with at least one transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the cannula that is larger than the transverse dimension of the first cutting element in order to receive the first cutting element; and

d) a second cutting element which is an electrosurgical cutting element and which is disposed on the distal end of the stylet distal to the first cutting element and which has an elongated tissue cutting surface that lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of the cannula.

43. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the first cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

44. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 43 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically

connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

45. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42 wherein the second cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

46. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 45 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

47. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 42, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

48. (Previously presented) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula having a longitudinal axis, an open distal end, a proximal end, an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) a first tissue cutting element disposed on the open distal end of the cannula lying in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula and having a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;

c) an elongate stylet which is slidably disposed in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a distal end configured to receive the first tissue cutting element; and

d) a second tissue cutting element which is disposed on a distal end of the stylet distal to the first tissue cutting element and which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said stylet and which has a cutting surface with a transverse dimension perpendicular to the longitudinal axis which is larger than the transverse dimension of the first tissue cutting element.

49. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the first tissue cutting element has an electrosurgical cutting surface.

50. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 49 including a first electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the first tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

51. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 48 wherein the cutting surface of the second tissue cutting element is an electrosurgical cutting surface.

52. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 51 including a second electrical conductor which has a first end configured to be electrically connected to a high frequency electrical power source and which has a second end electrically connected to the second tissue cutting element to provide high frequency electrical power thereto.

53. (Previously presented) The biopsy system of claim 48, wherein the distal end of the stylet has a substantially hemispherical head and the second tissue cutting element extends over the hemispherical head.

54. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 48, including a return electrode to provide a return electrical path for electrical current from the second tissue cutting element.

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate stylet.

57. (Previously Presented) The biopsy system of claim 54, wherein the return electrode is disposed on the elongate cannula.

58-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) A biopsy system, comprising:

a) an elongate cannula which has a longitudinal axis, an open distal end, a proximal end and an inner lumen extending to and in fluid communication with the open distal end;

b) an elongate stylet which is disposed at least in part within the inner lumen of the cannula, and which is configured for axial translation between a withdrawn position and an extended position and which has a tissue penetrating distal end with a maximum transverse dimension; and

c) an electrosurgical tissue cutting element which is located at the open distal end of the cannula and which lies in a plane traversing the longitudinal axis of the cannula and which is configured to sever a tissue specimen surrounding a portion of the elongated stylet that extends out of the cannula in the extended position and which has an outer diameter that

is less than the maximum transverse dimension of the distal end of the stylet.

64. (Previously presented) The biopsy device of claim 63 wherein the tissue penetrating distal end of the elongate stylet has an electrosurgical tissue cutting element which lies in a plane parallel with the longitudinal axis of said cannula.